DESCRIPTIO ANGLIÆ,

ET

DESCRIPTIO LONDINI.

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DESCRIPTIO ANGLIÆ, ET DESCRIPTIO LONDINI:

BEING

TWO POEMS

IN LATIN VERSE,

Supposed to be written in the ~~XV~~th CENTURY.

by George Coryate of Salisbury

Published at the Request of several learned GENTLEMEN and LOVERS of ANTIQUITY.

LONDON:

Printed for JOHN RIVINGTON in St. Paul's Church-Yard, and JOHN LAW in St. Martin's Church-Yard.

M.DCC.LXIII.

DESCRIPTIO

ANGLIÆ,

ET

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LONDINI:

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

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PREFACE.

THE Publiſher of the two following Poems has often been deſired to print them, but was in Doubt whether they had not appeared before; and therefore, whatever Merit they might have, or however well they might have been received, he was determined not to do it, till he had made all poſſible Inquiry about them. A few (but very few) Copies of them have been lately in the Hands of ſome Friends, and perhaps, in the Cloſets of the curious a few more may be found; yet as they are on general Subjects, and what may give ſome Entertainment to all learned Gentlemen and Lovers of Antiquity, the Publiſher has, at the Requeſt of ſeveral Friends, ſent them out into the World. It may be expected that he ſhould give ſome Account of them: Let it ſuffice—That many Years ago they were lent him by a Friend who permitted him to copy them—They appeared to be wrote in an old Hand, and to have other Marks of Antiquity about them; and from an Obſervation that occurs in that Part where Oxford is deſcribed, the Time in which they were wrote ſeems very clear *. As to the Language and Metre, the Reader will diſcover a claſſical Genius, but muſt make a ſmall Allowance for a few falſe Quantities, occaſioned chiefly

* The Author mentions only 15 Colleges at Oxford.—Now Jeſus College (the 16th) was founded by Hugh Price, L. L. D. Treaſurer of the Cathedral Church of St. David, A. D. 1571.—And St. John Baptiſt College (the 15th) was founded by Sir Thomas White, Merchant-Taylor, and Lord-Mayor of London, A. D. 1557.

chiefly from the Difficulty of ranging Names of Places in Verſe; and for that, in the Age they were wrote, there was not an exact Correctneſs in Things of this Nature. They were found amongſt ſome old Papers belonging to a conſiderable Family in one of our Weſtern Counties, now extinct, and are ſuppoſed to be the Work of one of them.—And it appears by the firſt of the Poems, that the Author, whoever he was, had his Education at Oxford. The Publiſher will think himſelf happy to have communicated to the World, what may contribute in the leaſt to the Entertainment of Gentlemen of Learning and Curioſity, and hopes theſe Poems will be well received, as that is his Motive of Publication.

DE-

DESCRIPTIO ANGLIÆ,

EJUSQUE

CIVITATUM COMITATUMQUE OMNIUM.

Situs. NOBILIS Arctæo boreali ſubjicit Axi
Inſula, (quàm Veteres Scriptis docuere profanis)
Quæ Parallelo eſt diſtincta, aut Climate nullo;
Quæ nulli Signo, nulli ſubjecta Planetæ eſt.

Nomen. Albion huic primò Nomen de Rupibus albis:
Et mox a Bruto Victore Britannia dicta:
Anglia nunc vulgò, quia fit tanquam Angulus Orbis:
Vel quia Saxorum Regina hoc Angela Nomen
Indidit, Imperio fælici Marte potita.

Forma. Hæc igitur, toto quâ vix eſt major in Orbe,
Inſula, Triquetro ſimilis, circumdata magno
Oceano, (per quod toto ſecluditur Orbe).

Diviſio. Eſt in tres Partes diviſa Provincia, per tot

Flumina. Flumina magna, Humbrum, Thameſin, Sabrinaque dicta.

Longitudo. Urbs eſt juncta Mari, Celtis quæ proxima Gallis,
Per trecenta ſacro diſtans Miliaria Monte,
(Mons Michaelis habet Sancti de Nomine Nomen)
Hìc ſtat ab Occaſu Dover, ultima Solis ab Ortu,
Quæ tantùm diſtat (tam longa Britannica Tellus.)
Latitudo. Et quantùm a Berwick boreali Parte locatâ
Inſula Vectis abeſt, Miliaria nempe trecenta
Et quadraginta, Gradus quinque, & ter quinque Minutas,
A Boreâ in tepidum tam latè extenditur Auſtrum.
Circuitus. Circuitus Terræ totius, & Ambitus ejus,
Mille quidem Italica, & quæ Jure Britannica dicas,
Quatuor atque decem Miliaria conſtat habere.
Dies. Eſtque Dies longus, cum Sol retrogradus intrat
Menſe Julî Cancrum, octodecim paulo minus Horas.
Polus. Stella Polus dictus, per quam ſecernitur Orbis,
Quinque decem noſtrum ſupra eſt elatus Horiſon,
Plus unoque Gradus, quàm Phœbus ſurgit ab Ortu.
Hic Situs, & qualis ſit noſtra Habitatio conſtat.
Et temerè, toto diviſos Orbe Britannos,
Dixerunt veterum Delicia vana Parentum,

Cum non ſit gelidæ ſubjecta Britannia Zonæ.

Planetæ. At neque Mars nobis (quantùm Sententia multùm
Iſta placet multis) Tauruſve aut Luna Britannis
Imperat, hanc noſtram ſemper una Aurea Terram
Rexit, & Angliacos uno cum Piſce Colonus.

Terra. Terra nec eſt ſterilis nec Gens indocta rudiſve;
Sed multam Tellus producit fertilis Herbam.

Habitantes. Sunt Facie angelicâ, magnis & Viribus Angli,
Nec minùs Ingenio quàm audaci Pectore pollent.
Hic Situs, hi Mores, taliſque Britannica Tellus.

Urbes. Nunc quot habet claras breviter recitabimus Urbes;
Sique quid occurrat, quod nè ſit inutile ſcitu.

Epiſcopatus. Suntque iſtic duo biſque decem Loca dedita ſanctis
Præſulibus, quorum eſt ſacris perſiſtere Curis.

Archiepiſcopi. Pontifices duo ſunt, Unius Cantia Sedes,
Eborum Alterius; parent his cuncta duobus;
At non Sorte pari, nam ſubſunt huic duo tantum,
Octodecim parent Primati Cantuarienſi.

Univerſitates. Et duo ſunt totum Gymnaſia nota per Orbem,
Oxonium Studiis florens, mihi dulcis Alumna;

Sunt

Oxonium. Sunt ubi quinque decem claræ Collegia Famæ,
Majoriſque novem Fructûs quam Nominis Aulæ;
Cambridgia. Doctorum Cætu Cambridgia clara Virorum.
39 *Comitatus.* Suntque triginta novem Conventus vel Comitatus;
10 *Auſtrales.* Auſtralem verſûs partem bis quinque reclinant,
Cantia, Southampton, Berks, ac Suſſexia, Surry,
Somerſet, Cornwall, cum Wilts, Dorſettia, Devon.
10 *Mediterranei.* Et Mediterranei totidem clauduntur ab Auſtro,
Et Thameſi, Rutland, Northampton, Bedford, & Oxon,
Huntingdon, Lincoln, Bucks, & Leiceſtria, Warwick,
Prætereaque novem his ſit Nottingamia juncta.
6 *Orientales.* Sex orientales Thameſin ſunt inter, & Humbrum,
Nomina ſunt quorum Cambridge, Suffolcia, Norfolk,
Iſtis Middleſex, Eſſex jungantur & Hartford.
2 *alii.* Sitque Wigornenſis, ſit & his Salopia juncta.
7 *Juxta Scotiam.* Præterea Septem Scotiâ claunduntur & Humbro,
Eboracum, Dunelmenſis, Lancaſtria, Derby,
Cumbria quas ſequitur, ſequitur Weſthumbria, Parte
Clauditur adversâ Scotiæ Northumbria juncta.
4 *alii.* Sunt alii Monmouth, Gloſter, Staffordia, Cheſter.

Oppida

Oppida. Oppida præterea centum ſunt atque viginti,
Urbes. Et quadraginta novem ſuccinctæ mœnibus Urbes.
Londinum. Regia Londinum toto notiſſima mundo,
Quam Thameſis facit, & Regis Præſentia claram,
In Cantiâ, oppida. Prima ſit; hanc ſequitur poſſeſſo Cantica Jure,
Roffa dehinc ſequitur, multis bene cognita Cauſis;
Hinc Dover & Sandwich, Iſthmum de Sheppey tenemus;
Aſhford, Hithe, Graveſend, quam magna Frequentia fecit
Nautarum celebrem, per quam Mare ducit ad Urbem.
Cranbrooke & Maidſtone, Sedes antiqua tuorum
Et tua, nota tuo jam Facto audace, Wiatte.
Hæ ſunt inſignes præclari Nominis Urbes,
Cantia dives Opum, fœcundæ Cantia Glebæ,
Ditior Ingenio reliquas ſupereminet omnes.
In Suſſexiâ. Hinc Suſſexiâ, Haſtings, Rye, Shoreham, Bramber, Arundell;
Deinde de aliis. Kingſton, cum Deptford, Croyden, Windſoria clara
Windſor, &c. Arce, & Nobilium Cœtu, Feſtoque Georgî.
Vectis. Inſula, quæ notios ſpectans extrema Britannos,
Undique ab immenſo circumdatur æquore Vectis,
Yarmouth & Newport ſummas complectitur Urbes.

Hinc Pelago Porteſmouth Hamptonaque juncta futenti.
Newbury cum Wiccombe, Thameſis quam profluit Undis,
Thameſis. Dicta Iſis, verum mox præterlabitur urbem
Thame, ubi juncta Iſi, Thameſis completa vocatur.
Non procul hinc Baldoc, & notæ Duſtable Famæ,
Cujus Planities Vulgi jactatur in Ore.
Tilbury, Newmarket, Walden, Barenia, Chelmsford,
Walſingham, Bradford, cum Lyn, Merdonia, Cromer,
Germanicoque Mari conjuncta Peterborow, Stamford,
Prædictio. De quâ, neſcio quid, prædixit vana Vetuſtas,
De Oxonio & Stamford. " Præclarum hoc Studium quod nunc eſt ad Vada Boſim,
" Tempore venturo celebrabitur ad Vada Saxi."
Woodſtock, Thetford, Haley, Warwick, Coventria, Barton,
Royſton, Ancaſter, Newark, Lincolnia, Grimſby,
Quamque ſuis Spatiis Humbrus complectitur Axulm.
Woolvercot Vicus, nec in hâc dicenda Camænâ,
Roſamunda. Sed quem habuit vivens, Roſamunda relinquit Honorem
Hìc moriens, pulchrum nempe hoc cum Carmine Corpus,
" Hic jacit in Tumbâ Roſa Mundi, non Roſa Munda."
Crux quoque quam Regem ſtruxiſſe loquuntur amantem,

Non

Non procul eſt, hodie quà metra hæc ſcripta leguntur:
" Qui meat, hoc oret, Signumque Salutis adoret,
" Utque tibi detur Requies, Roſamunda, precetur."
Hinc Sherborne, Winborne, præclari Nominis Urbes,
Et Poole, clara Scholâ, Cantuque, atque æquoris undâ.
Et Portland Statio quaſſis optata Carinis.
Cuique dedit Nomen venerandi Eccleſia Chriſti.

Willielmus Conqueſtor.

Dictaque fælicis Belli de Nomine Battel,
Eſt ubi Cœnobium fauſtè quod voverat olim
Normannus, Terram ingreſſus, ſi fortior eſſet
Marte, quod evenit; Cujus ſpectabis in Aulâ
Implicitos adeò pugnando Cornua Cervos,
Ut nunquam ſeſe poterint diſſolvere capti:
Eſtque Rei quondam non ficta Memoria geſtæ.

Doncaſter Croſs is publiſhed by the Soc. of Ant.

Doncaſter, Southwell, Sheffield, Mancheſter & Aſhborne,
Dictaque de Sylvâ, quæ ſtat prope, Nomine Sherwood.

Spelunca miranda, vocata Wokey Hole.

Wells, ubi Spelunca eſt, de quâ miranda feruntur;
Nam nec facta Manu eſt, nec ab Arte, at provenit ultro,
Fonte ſcatet placido, diris infeſta Venenis;
Dæmonis eſſe Domum, fert vani Fabula Vulgi;

Atque

Atque huic finitima eſt, cui dat Saliſburia Nomen,
Stonehenge. Planities—Monſtrum eſt pendentia Saxa videre!
Hæc pumerant multi, Numero concludere certo
Non potuit noſtrûm, aut Patrûm prudentior Ætas:
Cum primùm numeres, juraveris eſſe triginta,
Cum rurſus numeres, uno ſuperare priorem
Hunc Numerum dicas, eademque ad plura reduci:
Poſtea ſi numeres, ſubductum dixeris unum,
Sic quaſi deludunt miſeros numerare volentes.
Thermæ. Hinc ſudoriferæ, calidæque Bitumine Thermæ,
Quæ Urbi Nomen Opes, ſi quas habet illa, dederunt;
Quas, ſi non fallax ſit vana Opinio Vulgi,
Per Speluncam illam, de quâ modò diximus, atram
Perfluere; antiquis fuit hâc Ratione probatum,
Anſer nudatus. Anſer enim demiſſus in hâc, demerſit in illis
Nudatus Plumis, aliàs vix Corpore læſo.
Sunt in Cornubiâ, ſerum ſpectantia Solem,
Ex multis aliis, Padſtow, Truro, Tinmouth & Hartland;
Guernſey, &c. Parte ſed adverſâ, quâ Guernſey, & Jerſey locantur,
Sunt Plymouth, Dartmouth, Falmouth & Newton & Exmouth;

In

In mediâ Launceſton, Totnes, Aſhburton, Ockhampton;
Barnſtable, Holworthy, Dartford, Exonia, Moulton.
Briſtol. Hinc ſtat, Londini quæ dicitur Æmula, Briſtol,
Ponte, Opibus, Tectis, Sabrina Flumine clara.
Wallia. Sed nè quid omiſſum noſtro quis Carmine dicat,
Trans Sabrina ſitas breviter recitabimus Urbes,
Quò veros Walli referunt fugiſſe coactos,
Qui redierê olim geſturi Sceptra, Britannos.
Quâ Spe dum miſeri ſe conſolantur ineptâ,
Oppreſſi Macie Titulos & Stemmata jactant;
Atque citant veterum læti ſublimia Patrum
Nomina, Wallaeias inter fulgentia Gentes.
Diviſio Walliæ. Inque duas eſt hæc diviſa Provincia Partes,
Pars altera auſtralis, borealis & altera dicta;
Milford in auſtrali, Pembroke, Tenby, Kilcharin, Arford,
Caernarvon, Kidwell, Sanſay, nova Caſtra, loquuntur.
Ultrâ quas Urbs eſt de Nomine dicta Davidis,
Quem ſanctum mirâ cum Relligione, modoque
Feſtum Davidis. Mirando celebrant, illi nam Luce Sacratâ,
Cæpis veſcuntur, Cæpis quoque Pilia adornant;

Quod Qui non faciet, non eſt ab Origine Bruti.
Verùm hinc adverſâ, quò ſpectat Hibernia, parte
Cardigan & Sterford, Crythïe, cum Strodnor, Aberus,
Angleſey. Conway, Caermarthen, Pelagoque Angliſea juncta,
Aſſa, Wethrum, Bangora, ferïſque Habitatio Proſtolm.
Humbrum. Nec mihi ſunt Humbro clauſæ Scotiâque tacendæ,
Urbes, munitæque Arces Populique feroces.
Quà ferus a ſummo deſcendit Aparctias Axe,
Holyhead. Spurnhead, Scarbro', Teeſmouth, Hartipol, & Inſula ſacra,
Burlington, Bambro', Borowbridge, Bromley, Barington,
Newborough, Mondal, & Hull, Ramus quas alluit Humbri
Mona. Mona venenoſis quam ſpectat Hibernia † — —,
Sed quìd ego noſtris jungo Verba Ittala Verbis?
Inque Pedes Metrices quid inepta Vocabula Metris
Colligo, quidvè Urbes Romanâ Voce ſonarem?
Quæ vix Nomen habent Romanis Verſibus aptum.
Hæc Loca præcipua, hæ ſummæ, quas continet, Urbes
Anglia, Marte ferox, celerique timenda Sagitta.

† This Word was not legible, but it is preſumed to have ſignified, *free or without.*

URBIS

URBIS LONDINI DESCRIPTIO.

URBS augusta, alias inter quantùm eminet Urbes,
Londinum Thamesis condita propter Aquas.
Ipsa *Britannorum* Sedes secura *Monarchûm*,
Quam beat innumeris Dextera Dia Modis.
Hìc habitat *Themis*—hæc tua Patria, Phœbe—Sorores
Umbriferum *Aonides* hìc posûere nemus.
Mitius hìc *Cœlum* est—placidissima *Terra* quotannis
Germina inexhausti fundit amœna *Soli*.
Et totus, sine Fine, tibi, quas continet Orbis,
Londinum, egregias undique mittit Opes.
Exportat pretiosa tibi Velamina longè
Ipsa *Asia*, ut Reges ornet, amœna, tuos.

Africus

Africus & Dives dat Aromata multa quotannis
Nauta, quibus Trojam repleat uſque novam.
Utraque Divitias huc *Indiæ* fertilis omnes
Advehit; huc mittit Græcia quicquid habet.
His Opibus gravidas, atque Æquora ſæva Carinas
Emenſas Thameſis ſuſcipit unda Patris:
Protinus aſcendens non recto Tramite, Proras
Londini advertit Mœnibus ipſe ſui.
Ære graves (mora nulla) ruunt ad Littora Cives
Cuncta quibus ſalvus Nauta miniſtrat ovans.
Omniaque in numeræ ſupplentur Commoda Turbæ,
Quam Dextrâ hæc ſemper Divite Mater alit.
Compoſitum hic videas Populum parere *Senatûs*
Imperiis, Urbi quæ dare Jura ſolet:
Conſiliis Meritiſque gravis cui præſidet amplis
Conſul, habet cujus Fræna ſuprema Manus.
Panditur undeciès *Portis* ſublimibus Urbis
Murus, ubi omnigenas Turba miniſtrat Opes.
Hæc tamen excelſas jamdudum Urbs inclyta Portas
Exceſſit, nullo Limite clauſa, ſuas;

Donec

Donec ad Occiduas *Monachum* ſe porrigat *Ædes*
Ætherias, prope quas *Regia* celſa nitet.
Parte aliâ, quâ, Phœbe, tuum ſe inclinat ad Ortum
Londinum, *Arx* Ædes erigit ampla ſuas.
Hanc Victrix (ſi Fama refert certiſſima) Turrem
Effinxit magni Cæſaris ipſa Manus.
In medio Vicos ſi quis ſpectaverit Urbis,
Et prope tangentes Sydera clara Domos;
Ardua ſublimes mox Tecta fatebitur Arces,
Dicet, & innumeras protinus eſſe Vias.
Hìc quòque magnificam Thameſino Gurgite vaſto
Firmati *molem* cernere *Pontis* erit;
Bis quinque hunc ſupra novem (quis crederet) Arcus
Suſtentant, celſas fulcit & ipſe Domos.
Quam ſeparat Thameſis, Pons jungit hic arduus *Urbem*,
Sæcula cui nuſquam priſca dedêre parem.
Celſa quid hìc memorem, numeroque carentia Divûm,
Delubra antiquæ Relligionis Opus.
Pyramidem hìc Divi Pauli Fanum erigit altam.
Fulmina quam dicunt ſæpè ferire Jovis:

Templum auguſtum, amplum, multis ſublime Columnis
Marmoreis, ingens Urbis & Orbis Honor,
Æmula quid Cœlis ſpatioſa Palatia narrem?
Sceptriferâ Regum nobilitata Manu.
Aut quid odoratos, quos hic genitabilis, *Hortos*,
Aura alit, & liquidis rite rigantur Aquis?
Cuncta Oculo, Peregrine, tuo luſtrato, vel Orbem
Londinum, aut Orbis dixeris eſſe Caput.

F I N I S.